



Fear of Death in Iranian Nurses

Mahboubeh Dadfar^{1*}, David Lester²

¹ Department of Clinical Psychology, Iran University of Medical Sciences, International Campus, Tehran, Iran.

² Department of Psychology, the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, New Jersey, USA.

Published: 1 Oct 2014

Abstract

Death fear is defined as a morbid, abnormal or persistent anxiety of one's own death or the process of his/her dying. Fear of death is a feeling of dread, apprehension or solicitude (anxiety) when one thinks of the process of dying, or ceasing to 'be'. Nurses, as healthcare professionals, are exposed to dying patients and their beliefs about death phenomenon can impact on their general health. The aim of the present study was to examine the death fear and to compare this emotional phenomenon with those of other women. The subjects were 112 women (56 nurses and 56 comparison women). Nurses were selected from a general hospital and the control group was matched for age, education, marital status, employment status and years of work experience. They completed Collett-Lester fear of death scale (CLFDS). Data were analyzed by independent t-Test. On the CLFDS, the nurses had higher scores in the total and subscales of your own death, your own dying, the death of others and the dying of others than the control group but these differences were not significant. Nurses have negative emotions about death and dying. They have to monitor their fear of death. The research opens rooms for a dialogue on the use of death education program on the nurse's workplace. The generalizability of the present findings to other healthcare professionals and population merits further research.

Keywords: Fear of Death, Nurses, Women, Iran.

***Corresponding Author:** Mahboubeh Dadfar

Email: mahboubehdadfar@yahoo.com